



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
A Portion of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation Site
Old Shelby Road, Blacksburg, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a proposed Voluntary Cleanup Contract through December 17, 2013.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 13-5735-NRP, will affect approximately 12.75 acres identified in four parcels by Cherokee County Tax Map Serial Number 1530000045000, TMS 1730300047000, TMS 1730300026000, and TMS1730300031000. The Town of Blacksburg will acquire the Property from its current owner, Exxon Mobil Corporation. This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and the Town of Blacksburg.

A portion of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation's approximately 66.5 acres was developed prior to 1896 as a phosphate/fertilizer manufacturing facility that operated until 1932; the remaining acreage was unused. The Property was identified as the Acid Department that consisted of an office, laboratory, crusher, stamps, engine room amalgamates room, sulfur furnaces and iron burners, acid chamber, ore/rock and sulfur shed, chlorinating building, furnace and boiler rooms, concentrating room, nitre house, paint shop and pond/reservoir. Operations began with crushing phosphate rock and the use of sulfuric acid to create phosphoric acid, which is the building block of phosphate fertilizers. A Removal Action began in 2010 and has been completed.

In 1943 the 66.5 acres were sold and residential development began in the late 1940s to include the 12.75 acre Property. The Property is bounded to the north by Norfolk Southern Railroad, to the east by undeveloped land, to the south by Baileys fish Camp and privately owned properties, and to the west by residential parcels. Old Shelby Road, which is no longer in use, traverses the northern portion of the Property and North Shelby Street traverses the middle and southern portions of the Property

The Town of Blacksburg intends to preserve the Property as green space and to create a walking trail through a natural area for residents to enjoy. The preserve will allow the pre-existing forest, local floral, and fauna to develop. The Property will be subject to a Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions that will prohibit certain activities and control all future use.

If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, DHEC will allow Blacksburg to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the potential for environmental pollution. Blacksburg did not create the pollution, but will take steps to control it to keep the property safe for re-use.

DHEC will not hold Blacksburg responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under State law, Blacksburg will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site. Under the proposed contract, Blacksburg will test groundwater from the property. If significant contamination is found, Blacksburg will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to return Brownfield sites to productive reuse. The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/publicnotice.htm>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

The public may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract through December 17, 2013. Questions or comments may be directed to Jo Cherie Overcash, Project Manager, email OvercaJC@dhec.sc.gov or telephone (803) 898-0924, or Alex Fulmer, email FulmerWA@dhec.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.